

NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
318 South Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Tel: 217/492-4450

JAN PAUL MILLER
U.S. ATTORNEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



For Immediate Release
June 22, 2005

Contact: Rodger A. Heaton
Civil Chief, Assistant U.S. Attorney
(217) 492-4450

Community Medical Center Agrees to Pay \$500,000 in Civil Settlement

Springfield, Illinois - Community Medical Center of Western Illinois in Monmouth, Illinois, has agreed to pay \$500,000 to the United States under the terms of a False Claims Act civil settlement, announced today by Jan Paul Miller, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. Community Medical Center has also agreed to spend \$150,000 over the next three years to establish a new charity health care program for its Monmouth, Illinois service area. The charity services will focus on the diagnosis, treatment, education and prevention of diseases of the respiratory system.

The settlement stems from an investigation of Community Medical Center's treatment of Medicare beneficiaries for medical conditions including pneumonia, sepsis and renal failure between 1998 and 2001. The investigation revealed that Community Medical Center, relying on the advice of an outside consultant, submitted false claims to Medicare using specific diagnosis codes for gram negative pneumonia, septicemia and acute renal failure that were not supported by the patients' medical records. This caused Community Medical Center to receive a significantly higher reimbursement from Medicare than it would have otherwise received.

As part of the civil settlement agreement, Community Medical Center has entered into a three-year corporate integrity agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This agreement commits Community Medical Center to improve its billing procedures, and to provide information to HHS that demonstrates these improvements.

(More)

U.S. Attorney Miller said, “Every abuse of the Medicare system reduces money available to provide health care for our seniors. Hospitals must follow the rules but, if they do not, the U.S. Attorney’s Office will work aggressively to recover taxpayers’ money and protect the Medicare system.”

The investigation and negotiations with Community Medical Center were conducted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of Illinois, the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Illinois State Police.

#